

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing funds between a transferor and a transferee, at least the transferor having a transferor deposit sub-account administered via a depository administrator, the depository administrator maintaining a master account at a financial institution, the method comprising:

(a) the transferor accessing the depository administrator via a global network using a computer;

(b) the transferor requesting a transfer or hold of funds in the transferor deposit sub-account using the computer via the global network to or for the benefit of the transferee;

(c) if the transferee does not have a transferee deposit sub-account administered via the depository administrator, providing the transferee an opportunity to establish the transferee deposit sub-account; and

(d) the depository administrator processing the funds between the transferor deposit sub-account and the transferee deposit sub-account, wherein each of the sub-accounts forms part of the master account such that a transfer of funds between sub-accounts does not affect a balance in the master account.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises enabling the transferor to input an E-mail address of the transferee, and wherein the method further comprises alerting the transferee via E-mail that the transfer or hold of funds has been requested.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein step (c) is practiced by the depository administrator comparing the transferee E-mail address with stored E-mail addresses of deposit sub-account holders to thereby determine whether the transferee has an existing transferee deposit sub-account.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein if the transferee does not have a transferee deposit sub-account administered via the depository administrator, the step of alerting the transferee via E-mail further comprises providing a link to the depository administrator enabling the transferee to establish the transferee deposit sub-account.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein if the transferee has a transferee deposit sub-account administered via the depository administrator, the step of alerting the transferee via E-mail further comprises providing a link to the transferee deposit sub-account.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) is practiced by holding the funds in the transferor deposit sub-account until receiving confirmation that an event has occurred.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the confirmation that an event has occurred comprises confirmation by the transferor.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the confirmation that an event has occurred comprises confirmation of product delivery.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the confirmation that an event has occurred comprises confirmation of service completion.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising issuing automated teller machine (ATM) cards to holders of deposit sub-accounts, and enabling the transferor and transferee to deposit funds or withdraw available funds via their respective ATM cards.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, further comprising, prior to step (a), the transferor depositing funds into the transferor deposit sub-account using the transferor's ATM card, and after step (d), the transferee withdrawing funds from the transferee deposit sub-account via the transferee's ATM card.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 11, further comprising, after step (d), the transferee withdrawing funds from the transferee deposit sub-account via the transferee's ATM card.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the depository is a bank.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the depository is a retail establishment.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer system for processing funds between a transferor and a transferee, at least the transferor having a transferor deposit sub-account administered via a depository administrator, the depository administrator maintaining a master account at a financial institution, the computer system comprising:

at least one user computer running a computer program that enables the transferor to access the depository administrator to request a transfer or hold of funds in the transferor deposit sub-account to or for the benefit of the transferee; and

a system server running a server program, the at least one user computer and the system server being interconnected by a computer network, the system server processing the funds between the transferor deposit sub-account and the transferee deposit sub-account, wherein if the

transferee does not have a transferee deposit sub-account administered via the depository administrator, the system server providing the transferee an opportunity to establish the transferee deposit sub-account, wherein each of the sub-accounts forms part of the master account such that a transfer of funds between sub-accounts does not affect a balance in the master account.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for processing funds between a transferor and a transferee, at least the transferor having a transferor deposit sub-account administered via a depository administrator, the depository administrator maintaining a master account at a financial institution, the computer program comprising:

means for the transferor to access the depository administrator via a global network;

means for the transferor to request a transfer or hold of funds in the transferor deposit sub-account to or for the benefit of the transferee;

if the transferee does not have a transferee deposit sub-account administered via the depository administrator, means for providing the transferee an opportunity to establish the transferee deposit sub-account; and

means for the depository administrator to process the funds between the transferor deposit sub-account and the transferee deposit sub-account, wherein each of the sub-accounts forms part of the master account such that a transfer of funds between sub-accounts does not affect a balance in the master account.